

Abstract of the Disclosure

A search path can be easily designated between a plurality of databases for retrieving search keys and records from related databases in a chain-reactive manner. Databases that are potential search targets are displayed on a two-dimensional screen in the form of figures. Individual figures are designated using a pointing device and then key database A and terminal database D are designated out of databases A to F corresponding to the designated figures. Search keys and records are retrieved in a chain-reactive manner by following designated one or more of possible paths 302a and 302b that pass through the databases that exist between key database A and terminal database D designated on the screen.